

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently amended) A controller for controlling a cursor, comprising:
 - an identifying module for identifying at least one of a first period when a cursor is in motion and a second period when said cursor is not in motion; and
 - a calibrating module for sampling an input parameter signal to detect a hands-off condition using a first hands-off test during said first period and a second hands-off test, different than said first hands-off test, during said second period, and calibrating said input parameter signal when a hands-off condition is detected,
wherein said first and second hands-off tests comprise a sampling of the input parameter signal, a duration of said sampling in said first hands-off test being greater than a duration of said sampling in said second hands-off test.
2. (Original) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said identifying module inputs said input parameter signal from a force sensor, and wherein said calibrating module outputs a calibrated input parameter signal to an output module.
3. (Original) The controller according to claim 2, wherein said input parameter signal comprises an input parameter signal detected during a period when a pointing stick connected to said force sensor is untouched by a user.
4. (Previously presented) The controller according to claim 2, wherein said output module outputs a cursor movement signal based on said calibrated input parameter signal, and
wherein a transfer function for generating said cursor movement signal comprises a dead band within which said cursor movement signal causes no cursor movement for a non-zero input parameter signal.

5. (Currently amended) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said calibrating module calibrates said input parameter signal when a device for controlling said cursor is in a hands-off condition.

6. (Previously presented) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said first and second hands-off tests are used by said calibrating module to determine a hands-off condition in which a device for controlling said cursor is not being touched by a user, and

wherein said calibrating module calibrates a significant input parameter signal by identifying an input parameter signal detected during said hands-off condition as having a zero value, relative to which said significant input parameter signal is measured.

7. (Original) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said input parameter signal is calibrated to inhibit a cursor drift.

8. (Original) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said second hands-off test is less stringent than said first hands-off test.

9. (Original) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said first hands-off test comprises a duration of at least about 5 seconds, and said second hands-off test comprises no more than about 0.53 seconds.

10. (Currently amended) A cursor control system, comprising:
a force sensor which generates an input parameter signal; and
a controller operably coupled to said force sensor, comprising:
an identifying module for identifying at least one of a first period when a cursor is in motion and a second period when said cursor is not in motion; and
a calibrating module for sampling an input parameter signal to detect a hands-off condition using a first hands-off test during said first period and a second hands-off test,

different than said first hands-off test, during said second period, and calibrating said input parameter signal when a hands-off condition is detected,

wherein said first and second hands-off tests comprise a sampling of the input parameter signal, a duration of said sampling in said first hands-off test being greater than a duration of said sampling in said second hands-off test.

11. (Original) The cursor control system according to claim 10, further comprising:
an output module which receives a calibrated input parameter signal from said calibrating module and outputs a cursor movement signal based on said calibrated input parameter signal.
12. (Original) The cursor control system according to claim 10, wherein said force sensor comprises a pointing device which is integrally-formed in a keyboard assembly.
13. (Previously presented) The cursor control system according to claim 10, wherein said calibrating module calibrates said input parameter signal when a device for controlling said cursor is in a hands-off condition .
14. (Original) The cursor control system according to claim 10, wherein said first hands-off test comprises a first sampling time, and said second hands-off test comprises a second sampling time which is less than said first sampling time.
15. (Original) The cursor control system according to claim 10, wherein said first hands-off test comprises a duration of at least about 5 seconds, and said second hands-off test comprises no more than about 1 second.
16. (Original) A keyboard assembly comprising the cursor control system according to claim 10, wherein said force sensor comprises a pointing device which is integrally formed in a

keyboard.

17. (Original) A computer system, comprising
a keyboard assembly comprising the cursor control system according to claim 10; and
a display device for displaying a cursor controlled by said cursor control system.
18. (Currently amended) A method of controlling a cursor, comprising:
identifying at least one of a first period when a cursor is in motion and a second period when said cursor is not in motion; and
sampling an input parameter signal to detect a hands-off condition using a first hands-off test during said first period and a second hands-off test, different than said first hands-off test, during said second period, and calibrating said input parameter signal when a hands-off condition is detected,
wherein said first and second hands-off tests comprise a sampling of the input parameter signal, a duration of said sampling in said first hands-off test being greater than a duration of said sampling in said second hands-off test.
19. (Currently amended) A method of controlling a cursor, comprising:
identifying at least one of a first period when a cursor is in motion and a second period when said cursor is not in motion;
sampling an input parameter signal to detect a hands-off condition in which a device for controlling said cursor is not being touched by a user, by using a first hands-off test during said first period and a second hands-off test different than said first hands-off test during said second period; and
calibrating a significant input parameter signal by identifying an input parameter signal detected when a device for controlling said cursor is in said hands-off condition as having a zero-value, relative to which said significant input parameter signal is measured,
wherein said first and second hands-off tests comprise a sampling of the input parameter

signal, a duration of said sampling in said first hands-off test being greater than a duration of said sampling in said second hands-off test.

20. (Currently amended) A programmable storage medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of controlling a cursor, said method comprising:

identifying at least one of a first period when a cursor is in motion and a second period when said cursor is not in motion; and

sampling an input parameter signal to detect a hands-off condition using a first hands-off test during said first period and a second hands-off test, different than said first hands-off test, during said second period, and calibrating said input parameter signal when a hands-off condition is detected,

wherein said first and second hands-off tests comprise a sampling of the input parameter signal, a duration of said sampling in said first hands-off test being greater than a duration of said sampling in said second hands-off test.

21. (Previously presented) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said controller is included in a pointing stick system, and said input parameter signal measures a force applied to a point stick in said pointing stick system.

22. (Previously presented) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said calibrating said input parameter signal comprises sampling said input parameter signal using a first sampling time during said first period and a second sampling time different than said first sampling time during said second period.

23. (Previously presented) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said first hands-off test comprises a duration that is longer than a duration of said second hands-off test.

24. (Canceled)

25. (New) The controller according to claim 1, wherein said calibrating module calibrates said input parameter signal only when said hands-off condition is detected.